

Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection
Medical Marijuana Program
Board of Physicians—Public Hearing
Minutes
February 26, 2018

Members Present: Michelle Seagull Commissioner
Dr. Mitchell Prywes
Dr. Andrew Salner
Dr. William Zempsky
Dr. Vincent Carlesi
Dr. Linda Barry

DCP Staff Present: Xaviel Soto Health Program Supervisor
Karen Semmelrock Board Administrator

Call to Order

Commissioner Seagull called the meeting to order of the Board of Physicians for Connecticut's Medical Marijuana Program at 8:35 a.m. at the Department of Consumer Protection, 450 Columbus Blvd, Hartford, North conference room B.

Review and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

On a motion made by Dr. Carlesi and seconded by Dr. Barry, the draft minutes of the August 18, 2017 meeting are accepted.

Program Update

Commissioner Seagull reported that the program is growing. As of August 18, 2017, there were 834 physicians who are certifying patients. The number of patients who have been certified in Connecticut has increased to 23,873.

Commissioner Seagull stated that we are waiting for regulations to be approved for previously recommended conditions.

Commissioner Seagull reported that we have requested a Request For Application for new dispensary facilities.

New Conditions

At this meeting, the Board deliberated on four conditions, applying the required criteria from the regulations to each. For each condition, the three questions posed in the regulations were reviewed by the physicians individually. The three questions posed in the regulations are as follows:

1. Is the medical condition, medical treatment or disease debilitating?

2. Is marijuana more likely than not to have the potential to be beneficial to treat or alleviate the debilitation associated with the medical condition, medical treatment or disease?
3. Are there other matters that seem relevant to the approval or the denial of the petition?

Commissioner Seagull invited the general public to speak on any of the conditions. Only two people had signed up to speak in regard to the condition Intractable Headache Syndrome.

- **Albinism--Nystagmus**
 - No testimony from patients or public. Discussion from the Board members only.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 4 yes and 0 no
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 0 yes and 4 no.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to not add Albinism--Nystagmus to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults only by a vote of 0 for and 4 against.

- **Opioid Use Disorder/Opiate Withdrawal**
 - Many patients and other people concerned with this condition spoke both for and against adding this as a debilitation condition.
The Board requested more time to get written testimony and studies to review before making a decision on this condition. There was a great deal of discussion but an agreement that the Board wished to review the testimony in written form prior to the next meeting.

Dr. Zempsy made a motion to table this condition to a later date. Dr. Prywes seconded the motion and the Board unanimously voted to postpone voting on this condition.

- **Osteogenesis Imperfecta**
 - No testimony from patients or public. Discussion from the Board members only.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #1:
 - 4 yes and 0 no
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #2:
 - 4 yes and 0 no.
 - Vote on qualifying criteria #3:
 - No discussion

Vote to recommend to the Commissioner to not add Osteogenesis Imperfecta to the list of debilitating medical conditions for adults as well as children by a vote of 4 for and 0 against.

- **Progressive Degenerative Disc Disease of the Spine**
 - No testimony from patients or public. Discussion from the Board members only.

The Board discussed this condition at length and decided that the wording of this condition needs to be clarified as well as the criteria for certifying a patient with it.

Dr. Zempsky made a motion to table this condition so it could be clarified and refined. Dr. Prywes seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to hold off making a decision about this condition at this time.

Next Meeting

Commissioner Seagull stated that another meeting will be scheduled to consider Opioid Use Disorder/Opiate Withdrawal as well as a more refined definition of Progressive Degenerative Disc Disease of the Spine. The date will be discussed and decided at a later date, after written testimony is requested from the addiction/withdrawal community as well as any other members of the community. This will allow the Board members time to review the testimony prior to further discussion.

Adjournment

Commissioner Seagull adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:58 am.